Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An unbonded capping testing system for strength testing of concrete masonry units, comprising:

a test apparatus for strength testing of concrete masonry units;

a rigid, rectangular foam board of a size to be received on a face of a concrete masonry unit; and

a plastic sheet laminated to the rigid foam board and being engageable by the test apparatus, in use, with the rigid foam board engaging the face of the concrete masonry unit to provide even load distribution during testing.

2. (Currently amended) The unbonded capping testing system of claim 1 wherein the rigid foam board comprises an expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam board.

3. (Currently amended) The unbonded capping testing system of claim 2 wherein the EPS foam board has a density greater than 2 lb/ft3.

4. (Currently amended) The unbonded capping testing system of claim 2 wherein the EPS foam board has a density of about 3 lb/ft3.

5. (Currently amended) The unbonded capping testing system of claim 1 wherein the foam board has a thickness of about 0.5 inches and the plastic sheet has a thickness of about 0.06 inches.

6. (Currently amended) The unbonded capping testing system of claim 1 wherein the plastic sheet is laminated to the rigid foam board with an adhesive.

7. (Previously presented) In a testing system for compression testing of concrete masonry units including first and second platens, the improvement comprising a pair of compression pads each comprising:

a rigid, rectangular foam board of a size to be received on one face of a concrete masonry unit; and

a plastic sheet laminated to the rigid foam board and being engageable by one of the test platens, in use, with the rigid foam board engaging the face of the concrete masonry unit to provide even load distribution during testing.

8. (Original) The compression pads of claim 7 wherein the rigid foam board comprises an expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam board.

9. (Original) The compression pads of claim 8 wherein the EPS foam board has a density greater than 2 lb/ft3.

10. (Original) The compression pads of claim 8 wherein the EPS foam board has a density of about 3 lb/ft3.

11. (Original) The compression pads of claim 7 wherein the foam board has a thickness of about 0.5 inches and the plastic sheet has a thickness of about 0.06 inches.

12. (Original) The compression pads of claim 7 wherein the plastic sheet is laminated to the rigid foam board with an adhesive.

13. (Currently amended) In a ~~capping~~ testing system for compression testing of concrete masonry units comprising a compression testing apparatus including pistons operating first and second platens, the improvement comprising:

a pair of laminated compression pads, each comprising a rigid, rectangular foam layer of a size to be received on one face of a concrete masonry unit, and a plastic sheet layer laminated to the rigid foam layer and being engageable by one of the test platens, in use, with the rigid foam layer engaging the face of the concrete masonry unit to provide even load distribution during testing.

14. (Original) The improvement of claim 13 wherein the rigid foam layer comprises an expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam board.

15. (Original) The improvement of claim 14 wherein the EPS foam board has a density greater than 2 lb/ft3.

16. (Original) The improvement of claim 14 wherein the EPS foam board has a density of about 3 lb/ft3.

17. (Original) The improvement of claim 13 wherein the foam layer has a thickness of about 0.5 inches and the plastic sheet layer has a thickness of about 0.06 inches.

18. (Original) The improvement of claim 13 wherein the plastic sheet layer is laminated to the rigid foam layer with an adhesive.

19-21 (Cancelled)